

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) Mask apparatus including a generally ring-shape sealing assembly adapted to be retained with the head and to seal around at least the mouth of a user, ~~and a gas inlet for supplying gas to the apparatus,~~ and a harness for retaining the sealing assembly with the head, characterized in that the sealing assembly has a central opening located in the region of the mouth and extending across the width of the mouth, and a ~~removable~~ closure in the form of a transparent window secured in the opening to extend across the width of the mouth, ~~and that the gas inlet is mounted with the window,~~ and that the window is removable to leave the sealing assembly retained on the head by the harness such as to provide access to the region of the mouth via the opening.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously presented) Mask apparatus according to Claim 1, characterized in that the window is curved and rigid.
4. (Previously presented) Mask apparatus according to Claim 1, characterized in that the window is a push fit in the central opening.
5. (Previously presented) Mask apparatus according to Claim 1, characterized in that the sealing assembly includes a shelf adapted to extend beneath the nose of the user.
6. (Previously presented) Mask apparatus according to Claim 5, characterized in that the shelf supports a compliant substance adapted to seal around the nostrils.
7. (Previously presented) Mask apparatus according to Claim 5, characterized in that the shelf has a passage therethrough adapted to supply gas to the user's nose.
8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) Mask apparatus according to Claim 8 1, characterized in that the harness comprises two triangular portions encircling respective ears of the user, that both portions have a rear limb extending substantially vertically at the rear of the user's head, and that the rear limbs are securable with one another at the rear of the user's head.

10. (Currently amended) Mask apparatus according to Claim 1, characterized in that the sealing assembly includes an adhesive extending around its edge adapted to contact the user's skin.

11. (Previously presented) Mask apparatus according to Claim 6, characterized in that the shelf has a passage therethrough adapted to supply gas to the user's nose.

12. (Canceled)

13 (Previously presented) Mask apparatus according to Claim 1, characterized in that the gas inlet is located to one side of the window.

14. (Previously presented) Mask apparatus including a generally ring-shape sealing assembly adapted to be retained with the head and to seal around at least the mouth of a user, and a gas inlet for supplying gas to the apparatus, characterized in that the sealing assembly includes a central opening located in the region of the mouth, a removable closure for securing with the central opening, the gas inlet being mounted with the closure, a shelf adapted to extend beneath the nose of the user, and a passage through the shelf adapted to supply gas to the user's nose.

15. (Previously presented) Mask apparatus according to Claim 14, characterized in that the shelf supports a compliant substance adapted to seal around the nostrils of the user.

16. (New) Mask apparatus including a generally ring-shape sealing assembly adapted to be retained with the head and to seal around at least the mouth of a user, and a gas inlet for supplying gas to the apparatus, characterized in that the sealing assembly has a central

opening located in the region of the mouth and extending across the width of the mouth, a removable closure in the form of a transparent window secured in the opening to extend across the width of the mouth, and a shelf adapted to extend beneath the nose of the user, and that the gas inlet is mounted with the window,.

17. (New) Mask apparatus according to Claim 16, characterized in that the shelf supports a compliant substance adapted to seal around the nostrils.

18. (New) Mask apparatus according to Claim 16, characterized in that the shelf has a passage therethrough adapted to supply gas to the user's nose.